

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, LE, IS
SUBJECT: UNIFIL: PROGRESS REPORT, JUNE 13, 1978

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY-GENERAL ISSUED FIFTH PROGRESS
REPORT ON UNIFIL LATE JUNE 13, REPORTING ON FINAL WITH-
DRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES AND INITIAL REDEPLOYMENT OF
UNIFIL UNITS IN AREA IDF HAS NOW EVACUATED. RESULTS OF
DISCUSSIONS WITH LEBANESE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING STATUS
OF CHRISTIAN FORCES AND RELATED MATTERS ARE
DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL. END SUMMARY.
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2. SECRETARY-GENERAL'S OFFICE ISSUED UNIFIL PROGRESS
REPORT ON JUNE 13 MARKING LAST PHASE OF WITHDRAWAL OF
ISRAELI FORCES FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON. REPORT HAS BEEN
POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES. HIGHLIGHTS ARE PROVIDED BELOW.

3. UNDER "GENERAL SITUATION" REPORT NOTES THAT THERE

HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF FIRING INCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE EASTERN SECTOR. TOTAL STRENGTH OF UNIFIL AS OF JUNE 13 IS REPORTED AS 6,100, INCLUDING 5,250 INFANTRY (OF WHICH 190 TEMPORARILY DETACHED FROM UNDOF) AND 850 LOGISTICS PERSONNEL (OF WHICH 11 TEMPORARILY DETACHED FROM UNEF.)

4. REPORT STATES THAT 42 MILITARY OBSERVERS OF UNTSO ASSIST UNIFIL AND DISCUSSES ARRIVAL OF NIGERIAN, FIJIAN, IRANIAN AND IRISH CONTINGENTS AND AIRLIFTS FOR WHICH SYG EXPRESSES DEEP GRATITUDE.

5. IN DESCRIBING CONTACTS WITH THE PARTIES, THE REPORT DISCUSSES UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL GUYER'S MEETINGS IN BEIRUT WITH LEBANESE OFFICIALS ON MAY 20. "PRESIDENT SARKIS EMPHASIZED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF UNIFIL WAS ULTIMATELY TO ASSIST IN THE RESTORATION OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THIS PRESUPPOSED TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY AND THE PREVENTION OF ANY ARMED ELEMENTS NOT UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT FROM INFILTRATING INTO OR UNDERTAKING HOSTILE ACTIVITIES IN THE UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 425 (1978) AND 426 (1978) WAS TOTALLY INDEPENDENT OF THE POSITION THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LEBANESE GOVERNMENT MIGHT FINALLY TAKE CONCERNING THE CAIRO AGREEMENT OF 3 NOVEMBER 1969, WHICH DEALT WITH THE PRESENCE OF PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON, AND HE INDICATED THAT 'WHILE RESERVING ITS FUTURE POSITION REGARDING ITS RIGHTS AND INTERESTS IN THAT AGREEMENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON CONSIDERS THAT NO OBSTACLE, FROM WHATEVER PARTY, SHOULD HINDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426 ON THE TERRAIN FOR WHATEVER PRETEXTS OR JUSTIFICATIONS'."

6. CONTINUING UNDER THIS SECTION THE REPORT STATES: "DURING HIS MEETING WITH MR. ARAFAT, MR. GUYER REVIEWED WITH HIM THE PLO COMMITMENT TO CO-OPERATE FULLY WITH UNIFIL IN THE FULFILMENT OF ITS TASKS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THIS QUESTION WAS LATER PURSUED BY GENERAL ERSKINE WITH MR. ARAFAT AND HIS ADVISERS. MR. ARAFAT CONFIRMED THAT IN PURSUANCE OF THE GUARANTEES ALREADY GIVEN TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, PLO WOULD CO-OPERATE WITH UNIFIL AND THAT IT WOULD NOT INITIATE HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST ISRAEL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD CONTINUE SUCH ACTS FROM OTHER AREAS. WHILE THE QUESTION OF THE PLO PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WAS A

MATTER TO BE SETTLED BETWEEN PLO AND THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, PLO WOULD FACILITATE UNIFIL'S TASKS IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S APPEAL. IN PARTICULAR, PLO WOULD REFRAIN FROM INFILTRATING ARMED ELEMENTS INTO THE UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS. THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY PLO ARE IN LINE WITH A FIVE-POINT AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER EL-HOSS AND CHAIRMAN ARAFAT. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT TO IMPROVE LIAISON BETWEEN UNIFIL AND PLO IN ORDER TO AVOID INCIDENTS. IN THE CONTEXT OF THAT AGREEMENT, FOR HUMANITARIAN AS WELL AS PRACTICAL REASONS AND AS AN AD

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HOC INTERIM ARRANGEMENT, UNIFIL HAS AGREED TO ALLOW THE DELIVERY, UNDER UNIFIL CONTROL, OF CERTAIN NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES - FOOD, WATER AND MEDICINE - TO LIMITED PALESTINIAN GROUPS STILL IN ITS AREA OF OPERATIONS."

7. FINALLY IN THIS SECTION, THE REPORT REFERS TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN UN REPRESENTATIVES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY ISRAEL OF ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY BY JUNE 13. IT STATES:

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- "16. PENDING FULL ESTABLISHMENT OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY, INCLUDING MILITARY FORCES, IN THE UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE FOLLOWING POSITION:
 - (A) THAT MAJOR HADDAD IS PROVISIONALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AS DE FACTO COMMANDER OF THE LEBANESE FORCES IN HIS PRESENT AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING UNIFIL'S MISSION;
 - (B) THAT THE ARMY COMMAND WILL ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR HADDAD TO FACILITATE UNIFIL'S MISSION AND DEPLOYMENT. TO THIS END THE LEBANESE ARMY WILL APPOINT TWO SENIOR OFFICERS TO LIAISE WITH UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS AND WILL, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TAKE MEASURES TO REGULARIZE THE SITUATION OF LEBANESE REGULAR FORCES IN THE SOUTH;
 - (C) THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO MOVE LEBANESE ARMY UNITS TO THE SOUTH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;
 - (D) THAT ALL BORDER PROBLEMS SHALL HENCEFORTH BE DISCUSSED WITH UNIFIL AND IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A RE-ACTIVATED ISRAEL-LEBANON MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION, A MEETING OF WHICH WAS HELD ON 12 JUNE, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT BEING REPRESENTED BY SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS FROM BEIRUT;
 - (E) THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON WISHES UNIFIL TO EXERCISE ITS FULL FUNCTIONS UNDER SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 425 (1978) AND 426 (1978) AND WILL LEND ALL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO THIS END.

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- 17. IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE POSITION OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, UNIFIL IS ENGAGING IN THE NECESSARY DISCUSSIONS IN THE AREA, WITH A VIEW TO WORKING OUT

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS DEPLOYMENT AND THE FULFILMENT OF ITS MISSION THROUGHOUT THE AREA OF OPERATIONS."

8. IN FINAL SECTION ON "ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE" THE REPORT STATES THAT "UNIFIL OBSERVED AND SUPERVISED THE CEASEFIRE CALLED FOR BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND CONTROLLED THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIEL INTO AND WITHIN ITS AREA OF OPERATIONS." IT GOES ON TO SAY THAT THIS CONTROL "WAS EXERCISED MAINLY BY MANNING CHECKPOINTS AT VARIOUS POINTS OF ENTRY IN CO-OPERATION WITH LEBANESE GENDARMES. UNIFIL TROOPS PREVENTED THE ENTRY INTO THE AREA OF ALL ARMED PERSONNEL THAT WERE NOT UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. WHEREVER SUCH PERSONNEL WERE DISCOVERED WITHIN THE AREA OF OPERATIONS, EFFORTS WERE MADE TO KEEP THEM UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND, THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND PERSUASION, TO GET THEM OUT OF THE AREA."

9. IN DESCRIBING FINAL WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES ON JUNE 13, THE REPORT STATES: "FIVE OF THE POSITIONS EVACUATED BY THE ISRAELI FORCES HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY UNIFIL...PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE FRENCH, NEPALESE AND IRISH BATTALIONS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE OCCUPATION BY THEM OF NINE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS BY EARLY JUNE 14. AS INDICATED EARLIER, UNIFIL IS ENGAGING IN THE NECESSARY DISCUSSIONS IN THE AREA WITH A VIEW TO WORKING OUT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS DEPLOYMENT AND THE FULFILMENT OF ITS MISSION THROUGHOUT THE AREA OF OPERATIONS." YOUNG

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